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Message Text

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63
ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 H-03 PCH-02 /138 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WIWRIGHT:PR
APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE
NEA/EGY - MR. ANDERSON
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
---------- 023593
R 042212Z JAN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION U*UN NEW YORK
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USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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BEIRUT ALSO FOR DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 4, 1974:

QUOTE: A. ON THE QUESTION OF A SEPARATION OF FORCES, IS IT THE AMERICAN VIEW THAT A SEPARATION OF FORCES ENTAILS ACTION BY BOTH SIDES?

A. WHAT I WOULD SAY AT THIS STAGE IS THAT WE HAVE CUSTOMARILY LEFT OPEN THE EXACT NATURE OF THE PROCESS AND THE DETAILS THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED. AND AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE SECRETARY HAS KEPT THAT FLEXIBILITY WHILE ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM THROUGHOUT. THAT SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED, I THINK, TO MEAN ANYTHING EITHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE IN RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTION, BUT MERELY THAT HE HAS KEPT FLEXIBILITY THROUGHOUT ON THAT.

Q. I WAS JUST WONDERING WHETHER IT IS YOUR VIEW THAT ACTION IS REQUIRED BY BOTH SIDES OF A MILITARY NATURE TO DEFINE SEPARATION.

A. I THINK IF I CAN USE YOUR TERM IN ITS BROADEST SENSE -- "ACTION" -- I THINK IT IS AN INEVITABLE EXPECTATION THAT

ANYTHING WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE WILL, BY ITS NATURE, INVOLVE SOME KIND OF ACTION BY BOTH SIDES. BUT I AM NOT ABLE TO DEFINE THE NATURE OF THAT ACTION.

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Q. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT ACTION AND ARRANGEMENTS SATIS-FACTORY TO ALL SIDES, WHATEVER THIS ACTION IS, MUST IT BE APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION?

A. THE PROCEDURE AS IT STANDS IS THAT WHATEVER ARRANGE-MENT IS WORKED OUT IN THE MILITARY WORKING GROUP WOULD GO TO THE CONFERENCE ITSELF, IN WHICH WE AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE PARTIES. AND ANY FORMAL RELATIONSHIP I DON'T

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BELIEVE HAS BEEN DEFINED. BUT BY ITS VERY NATURE, THE RESULTS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE, AND AGAIN, IF IT IS TO BE OF ANY VALUE, IT IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE SOMETHING THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE, AS I SAID BEFORE, TO THOSE CONCERNED, WHICH CERTAINLY INCLUDES US AND THE SOVIET UNION.

Q. WOULD YOU EXPECT UNILATERAL ACTION BY ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER IN THE DISENGAGEMENT?

A. BY THE VERY NATURE OF THE SITUATION AND THE POLITICAL REALITIES, I FIND IT VERY HARD TO CONCEIVE OF ANY SIDE UNILATERALLY MAKING THE ARRANGEMENT. IT ISN'T THE WAY IN WHICH COUNTRIES MAKE ARRANGEMENTS.

Q. WITHOUT A QUID PRO QUO.

A. THAT IS RIGHT.

Q. WOULD YOU TRY TO DEFINE WHAT YOU MEAN BY UNILATERAL? COULDN'T ONE SIDE DO SOMETHING TODAY THAT WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A RESPONSE PERHAPS A MONTH FROM NOW? YOU WOULDN'T CONSIDER THAT UNILATERAL, WOULD YOU?

A. NO. IF THE TWO COUNTRIES CONCERNED HAD WORKED OUT UNDERSTANDINGS WHICH TOOK PLACE SERIATIM RATHER THAN AT EXACTLY THE SAME TIME, THAT IS ANOTHER VARIATION IN ACTION ON BOTH SIDES. BUT YOU CAN'T DEFINE IN ADVANCE AN EXACT FORMULA, BECAUSE THE VARIETIES ARE INFINITE IN TRYING TO FIND AN UNDERSTANDING WHERE THE DIFFERENCES ARE SO DEEP.

Q. ON THE MIDDLE EAST THERE ARE SKIRMISHES AND ISRAELIS
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-- I DON'T KNOW -- FORTY-THREE DEATHS, OR SOMETHING. THAT IS A REAL EVENT. AND I WONDER IF YOU COULD TELL US WHAT THE U.S. VIEW IS AS TO WHY THE EGYPTIANS

ARE INVOLVED IN THIS TYPE OF OPERATIONS WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING ON. WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE?

A. IN ANY SITUATION WHERE YOU HAVE TWO OPPOSING LINES INTERMINGLED, JUST ACROSS FROM EACH OTHER, YOU HAVE SKIRMISHES. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU WERE IN THE LAST WAR, BU I WAS. AND THESE SKIRMISHES HAPPEN. SOME ARE DELIBERATE, SOME ARE ACCIDENTAL. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO CAST THE FIRST STONE. AND WE REGRET ANY-THING THAT UPSETS THE CEASE-FIRE. WE VERY MUCH HAVE ACTED THROUGHOUT IN AN EFFORT TO HAVE AS STABILIZED A

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SITUATION AS POSSIBLE. AND THAT IS AS FAR AS I THINK
ANY PRACTICABLE COMMENT CAN BE MADE AT THIS POINT.
END QUOTE. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OCT: POUCHED SANAA.

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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To: GENEVA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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